

Their United Influence

A Story For Labor Day

By ESTHER VANDEVEER

John Bryan began to support himself at twelve years of age, doing odd chores in the Pollard Manufacturing company. Johnny was an ambitious boy and a bright boy as well. He knew that if he were ever to occupy one of the mahogany desks provided for the chiefs of departments he must get some education. He had not received much schooling as yet, for he had been needed at home, and now that he was at work during the day his opportunity for study was not considerable. However, he made the most of what there was. A couple of hours a day was all he could afford for the purpose, but he used those hours regularly.

Johnny was fond of machinery, which led him to study about machinery. This led him into fields with which machinery is connected. The metals and woods of which machinery is made naturally interested him, and he studied about these and the processes of obtaining them and fitting them for use. The different steps by which Johnny during twenty years ascended to the position of general manager are not pertinent to this story. When he was twenty-five years old he was given one of the mahogany desks that he had regarded so long as the object of his ambition, but after he attained it he found the realization not what he had expected. Indeed, he used it very little, preferring the more active work of superintending the department he managed. But as time passed and he mounted higher in the scale of the company's officers he found it necessary to remain where he could be readily reached and could communicate with any and all who relied upon him for instructions.

Bryan, on being transferred from laborer to manager, was necessarily a changed man. Not that he ceased to sympathize with the workman, but he was now in a position to see both sides of the labor question. He was no longer grimy and greasy, but dressed like a man of fashion. Occasionally on meeting men beside whom he had worked in overalls he fancied they regarded him as one who in becoming a manager had become also something of a renegade. But this was doubtless due to his own sensitiveness. Any sensible laborer knows that there are different requirements for different duties, and with such Bryan had an advantage in having been one of them.

When John was placed in a position to take sides in labor contentions, knowing as he did both sides, he always placed himself in a judicial position, determined upon what was practicable—even if it did not coincide with abstract justice—and once his mind was made up he was immovable.

Bryan had not been general manager long before a demand was made for higher wages. There had been strikes while he was manager of a department, but at that time he had not been consulted by the officers as to the stand they should take. They had been forced to yield in every instance, and now that a new demand was made it was suggested by one of them that they try John as their representative and place the whole matter in his hands. He spent a week going over the accounts of the company to learn what it could afford to do and proved conclusively to himself that if this new demand were granted it would cut off the last remnant of funds for dividends, and the capital of the concern, being unproductive, would seek other means of investment. This would take away from the operatives the opportunity afforded to make a living. When the committee were referred to Bryan they were pleased, supposing that, having been one of them, he would grant their demands. What was their surprise to meet with a flat refusal. Upon their asking the cause of this refusal he declined to give it to them, stating that it would be prejudicial to the interests of the company to do so.

This unheard of action on the part of one who had worked as they were working produced a very bitter feeling. The operatives were at once called out and the works shut down.

Miss Adeline Withers, a wealthy maiden lady of thirty, who had interested herself in the welfare of laborers, called one morning to see Bryan in behalf of the strikers.

"Mr. Bryan," she said, "I have called to see if something cannot be done to end this dreadful strike. I have visited a number of your working people and find them in distress. It is not only the fathers of families who are suffering, but the wives and what is most pitiful, the children."

"The raise asked for in this case," was the reply, "cannot be granted at this time."

"Will you tell me why?"

"No."

"Why not?"

"When the representatives of the American people ask for information of the president on any given matter which he declines to give, he says that it would be incompatible with the welfare of the nation. My reply is much

the same. To make known the financial condition of this company would be to give our competitors points of which they might take advantage to drive us out of business. Indeed, to grant what the men ask or give a reason why it is refused would kill the goose that lays their golden eggs."

This was not satisfactory to Miss Withers, and she told Bryan so, at the same time reproaching him for refusing to help his former fellow laborers. Upon this he informed her that he had nothing further to say on the subject, which statement she could not but consider a dismissal.

The strike continued, the mills were idle, the operatives suffered. One day Mary Boyd, one of the hands, a girl of twenty, visited Bryan in his office and said to him:

"Mr. Bryan, some of the children are literally starving. If the strike is not soon ended there will be many deaths among them."

"If I grant the demands," replied the general manager, "I shall be doing the operatives an injury."

"Why so?"

"I have refused to answer that question to others, but I will answer it to you on your promise not to reveal it."

"I promise."

"Very well. We are barely making the dividends, and so far as we can look ahead will run behind on the next season's manufactures, and there will be no dividends at all. A trust has been formed to produce our goods, and their policy is to shut down half of the mills they can get into. They are now scheming to get possession of these works, and as soon as they do will discharge every operative. Parties who hold the majority of the stock are debating whether to sell the control to the trust or hold on, hoping for a change in the market for our manufactures. If they sell the wages you have all been getting will be lost to you. Is it not better to keep what you have than get a little more for a time, then lose the whole?"

"I understand," said Mary, "but since you have sealed my lips what am I to do?"

"Only one thing is practicable, tell the leaders that you have seen me, that you have confidence in me doing the best for the operatives as well as for the company."

"They will not believe me. At any rate they will not withdraw their demands."

"They will believe anything you say to them; that is they will believe that you have confidence in me."

"If you could tell them what you have told me, they would withdraw their demands for the present."

"I could not tell them all, and those who have engineered this matter do not happen to have my confidence. They would consider what I told them a bluff and would not keep the secret."

Bryan went to the safe, opened it, and took out a package of bank bills.

"Take this," he said, "and make it go as far as you can in relieving distress, but do not tell that it comes from me."

"I wish," said Mary, "that they knew you as well as I. They would do anything you ask."

"I believe they will do anything you ask."

"Why do you say that?"

"Because they know you to be a noble girl."

Whether there was something in the tone of voice in which these words were spoken or the look that accompanied them a slight color came to Mary's cheek. She was a child when Bryan was passing from the workman's bench to the mahogany desk, but she had known him in both spheres, and he had been her idol. Without another word she left him, resolved to make a strong effort to utilize her personal influence over the men to induce them to withdraw, for a time at least, demands that would deprive them of ability to make a living through the Pollard Manufacturing company.

She began at once, ignoring the leaders of the strike, making her appeal to certain conservative persons whom she knew to be friendly to the general superintendent. She told them that she had convinced her that in refusing their demands he was acting in their best interest. She begged them to call off the strike and wait for a more favorable opportunity to make another demand, assuring them that when it was best he would favor them.

The persons to whom she appealed talked with others, and they with others. Without their leaders' sanction they called a meeting, and Mary addressed them, repeating to the many what she had said to the few. When she had finished there was a protracted talk, the operatives gathering in groups and debating whether, first, to trust the speaker, and second, the man she represented. Before the final adjournment the meeting was called to order and a resolution was offered:

Whereas, we have implicit trust in our former fellow workman, John Bryan, and our companion, Mary Boyd, therefore resolved that we who constitute this meeting return to work at once.

More than half the operatives of the company were present, and seven-eighths of them voted to sustain the resolution. It was carried, and the meeting adjourned with cheers for the best man and the best woman in the world. The action of these operatives influenced the rest, and the strike was ended.

That was the last strike of the employees of the Pollard Manufacturing company. One year from that time John Bryan increased his influence with them by marrying Mary Boyd, and on the day of the wedding a request for the readjustment of all wages was granted, resulting in a far more satisfactory arrangement for both sides than had ever existed before.

John Bryan is now president of the company.

JOURNEYING TOWARD THE HOLY CITY

Acts 10:15-17.—August 27.

St. Paul's Address to the Elders of the Church at Ephesus—A Brief Review of His Own Experiences—The Kingdom of His Preaching. Double Responsibility Upon Elders. Warning Against False Teachers.

"I commend you to God and to the Word of His grace."—Verse 24.

AFTER St. Paul had fled from Ephesus, he made a tour of the European Churches which he had founded. Passing through Macedonia to Corinth, he came by vessel again to Miletus, about fifty miles south of Ephesus. He was accompanied by representatives of several Churches of Greece and Asia Minor, and was en route for Jerusalem, for whose port he had suggested that collections be made in the four provinces where he had preached. The vessel on which the party were traveling was detained indefinitely at Miletus. So word was sent to the Elders at Ephesus, and they came to Miletus.

Today's Study calls attention especially to the Apostle's address to these Elders. We are not to think of it as a boastful statement, but rather as a plain rehearsal of matters which his hearers would fully concede. It was given, not for his own sake, but with a view to making the lesson of the hour the more impressive. He reminded them that for three years they had known him intimately—his manner of life, his devotion to the Lord, to the service of the Truth and of the brethren. He also reminded them of his humility of mind—that his conduct had not been haughty and overbearing, that he had not sought to lord it over the Church, but that he had endured amongst them many trials and difficulties with the Jews, with "false brethren."

The Elders knew of his work, his endurance and his holding back from them nothing that would be helpful to them. He had taught them both publicly and privately. To both Jews and Greeks he had testified that there is but one Gospel of Christ, to be accepted through faith and turning away from sin. By calling attention to these elements of his own character, he was laying the foundation for his subsequent exhortation that they should copy his zeal, his fidelity. He had been a faithful overseer, or bishop, watching over their interests; a faithful pastor, guiding their welfare and seeing to their nourishment in spiritual things.

Although possessed of his physical liberty, St. Paul felt a mental restraint which he could not shake off. He must go to Jerusalem; for this was the Lord's providence for him. But he had received assurances from others that bonds and imprisonment awaited him there. None of these things moved him, however, although he knew that the Ephesian Church would see his face no more.

Responsibility Upon All Elders. Incidentally we note the Apostle's Message, which he particularly emphasized as the Gospel of Christ—"preaching the Kingdom of God." It is right that we should recognize that this is the same Gospel which we are preaching today. Otherwise we are not preaching aright. God's grace was manifested in the gift of His Son, who tasted death for every man. (Hebrews 2:9.) Ultimately that death will bring blessings to all mankind by the establishment of a world-wide Kingdom for the uplifting of all. This is the Kingdom we pray for, "Thy Kingdom come; Thy will be done on earth."

"I have not shunned to declare unto you the whole counsel of God." What St. Paul preached to the Church at Ephesus is surely the same Message which, by Divine arrangement, has come down to us in his Epistles. We note that his Message contains not one word respecting eternal torment, which is no part of the Divine Plan. Surely from these Epistles we now perceive that he was very patient in reproving, instructing and encouraging the Lord's dear people.

The Apostle's thought in calling the Elders was to impress upon them the thought that, as teachers in the Church, they had a double responsibility—in respect to both themselves and the Church. He reminded them that the Lord had purchased this Flock with the precious blood of the Lamb of God, and that this value in God's sight should make them willing to lay down their lives for the brethren in any service which they could render. He prophetically declared that of their own selves—of the Flock, and especially amongst the Elders—men would arise who would be desirous of being leaders, and who would not hesitate to produce a schism, a division, to help along their ambition. For a time they would deceive the sheep by an outward profession, covering their wolfish nature.

St. Paul also reminded the Elders that his own course had been one of great care over them and over all the Churches. In Verse 35 he reveals the secret of his success as the Lord's servant. He constantly put into practice the Master's admonitions.



St. Paul and the Disciples.



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Notice of Proposed Closing of Streets and Alleys.

To all whom it may concern: This notice is given pursuant to a resolution adopted by the Commission of the City of Owosso, Michigan, on the 14th day of August, A. D. 1916, the Commission of said city will meet on Tuesday, the 14th day of September, 1916, at 7:30 o'clock in the afternoon of said day for the purpose of hearing objections to the following described streets and alleys set forth in resolution No. 968 shown below. Objections may be filed in my office in writing by any person interested up until the day and hour mentioned. The annexed resolution was passed by the Commission of said city at its regular meeting on the 14th day of August, A. D. 1916, in pursuance of this resolution this notice is given:

Resolution No. 957.

Resolved by the Commission of the City of Owosso, That it is hereby deemed advisable to vacate, discontinue and abolish the following described streets and alleys in M. Keyte's Maple Ridge Heights Addition to the City of Owosso, Michigan:

1. A portion of 10 foot alley described as follows: Commencing at the southwest corner of Sec. 19, T. 7 N., R. 3 E.; thence east on section line 208 feet; thence north 10 feet to the southeast corner of lot 3, block 5 of above addition; thence west 208 feet to the north and south section line; thence south 10 feet to place of beginning.

2. A portion of 15 foot alley described as follows: Commencing at a point on the west line of Sec. 19, T. 7 N., R. 3 E. 10 feet north of the southwest corner of said section 19; thence east 15 feet to the north and south section line; thence south 120 feet to the north and south section line; thence west 15 feet to the north and south section line; thence south 120 feet to place of beginning.

3. A portion of Keyte's Avenue described as follows: Commencing at a point on the west line of Sec. 19, T. 7 N., R. 3 E. 130 feet north of the southwest corner of said section 19; thence east along south side of Keyte's Avenue 308 feet to the northeast corner of lot 3, block 5 of above addition; thence north 60 feet to the southeast corner of lot 14, block 1; thence west 308 feet to the west line of Section 19; thence south 60 feet to place of beginning.

4. A portion of Division street described as follows: Commencing at a point 180 feet north and 33 feet east of the southwest corner of Section 19, T. 7 N., R. 3 E.; thence north to the northwest corner of lot 7, block 8 of said addition; thence west 32 feet; thence south to a point 180 feet north of the southwest corner of Section 19; thence east 33 feet to place of beginning.

5. A portion of Collingwood Avenue described as follows: Commencing at the northwest corner of lot 1, block 1 of said addition; thence east 275 feet; thence north 60 feet; thence west 275 feet; thence south 60 feet to place of beginning.

Be it Further Resolved, That the Commission will meet at the office of the city clerk in said city upon Tuesday, the 5th day of September, A. D. 1916, at 7:30 in the afternoon of said day for the purpose of hearing objections, and the said Commission will upon said date and in said place hear all objections to the vacating, discontinuing and abolishing of said streets and alleys.

Be it Further Resolved, That the city clerk is hereby directed to give notice according to the terms of the charter of the City of Owosso of the action of the Commission, and include in said notice a copy of this resolution, and that the Commission will meet at the time therein set forth and at least two weeks after the passage of this resolution, at which time and place opportunity will be given to all persons interested to be heard regarding said discontinuing, vacating and abolishing of said streets and alleys.

Dated August 24th, 1916.

ARTHUR H. DUMOND,

Clerk of the City of Owosso.

NOTICE OF PRIMARY ELECTION.

MICHIGAN DEPARTMENT OF STATE LANSING

To the Sheriff:

You are hereby notified that a General Primary Election will be held in this state on Tuesday, the twenty-ninth day of August, 1916, for all political parties for the purpose of nominating candidates for the offices of United States Senator, Governor, Lieutenant Governor, Representatives in Congress, State Senators and Representatives in the State Legislature, also for nominating candidates by each political party in counties, as prescribed by Act No. 281 of the Public Acts of 1900, as amended.

In witness whereof, I have hereto affixed my signature and the Great Seal of the State, at Lansing, this 10th day of July, in the year nineteen hundred sixteen.

COLEMAN C. VAUGHAN,

Secretary of State.

Sheriff's Office

Corunna, Mich., July 25, 1916.

To the Township Clerks and the Electors of Shiawassee County:

Sirs:

You are hereby notified that at the Primary election to be held in this state on Tuesday, the 29th day of August, A. D. 1916, candidates for the office of United States Senator and for the offices of Governor, Lieutenant Governor (to be voted for at the general election on day of November, A. D. 1916) will be voted for by the qualified registered electors of all political parties. Also that the qualified electors of all parties will vote for candidates for Congressman, for the congressional district of which said county forms a part; Senator in the state legislature from the senatorial district of which said county forms a part; Representative in the state legislature, for Sheriff, County Clerk, County Treasurer, Register of Deeds, Prosecuting Attorney, two Circuit Court Commissioners, two Coroners, County Surveyor, County Drain Commissioner, County Road Commissioner.

In witness whereof I have hereto set my hand this 25th day of July, A. D. 1916.

B. S. GRIFFIN,

Sheriff of Shiawassee County.

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Order of Publication.

State of Michigan, The Probate Court for the County of Shiawassee.

At a session of the Probate Court for said County, held at the Probate Office in the City of Corunna, on the 11th day of August, in the year one thousand nine hundred and sixteen.

Present, Matthew Bush, Judge of Probate.

In the matter of the estate of Huldah Secord, deceased.

The Administrator of said estate having rendered a final account to this Court.

It is ordered, that the 11th day of September, next, at ten o'clock in the forenoon, at said Probate Office, be appointed for examining and allowing said account.

And it is further ordered, that a copy of this order be published three successive weeks previous to said day of hearing in The Owosso Times, a newspaper printed and circulating in said County of Shiawassee.

MATTHEW BUSH,

Judge of Probate.

By CLARIDGE GALLOWAY, Probate Register.

21-11

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